

REMARKS

Applicants request further examination and reconsideration of this application.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 17 - 22 are allowable.

Applicants note for the record that Claims 17 - 20 were previously amended, in the Response to the Examiner's Action Mailed December 4, 2002 (filed by Applicant on April 4, 2003), which placed Claim 17, 18, and 20 in independent format, and which corrected a typographical error in Claim 19. Claims 17 - 20 should be allowable.

Claims 21 and 22 have been left dependent on Claim 1. In view of the enclosed Declaration under Rule 1.131, Claims 21 and 22 should also be allowable as dependent upon an allowable base claim (Claim 1), as well as being allowable in their own right.

Regarding Typographical Errors:

Applicants have amended Claim 5, which was previously a duplicate of Claim 4, to now read: "A backlit keyboard as in Claim 1, wherein the stems each comprise a post." to claim the embodiments of Claim 1 that include a post. Support for some embodiments having a post is at page 11, line 24, for example, so no new matter is added.

No other amendments are made to Claims 1 - 38.

Regarding Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103:

Applicants note that every rejection in the Examiner's Action under 35 U.S.C 102 or 103 includes the reference Katrinecz, either alone or in combination with other references. Applicants herewith submit a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.131, which swears behind the Katrinecz reference filing date. This Declaration proves that the invention, as claimed in at least all the independent claims currently pending after this Response to the Examiner, was conceived and reduced to practice before the filing date of Katrinecz. Therefore, Applicant believe that all the rejections are moot, and request that these rejections be removed. Applicants believe that Claims 1 - 38 are now allowable, and requests the same.

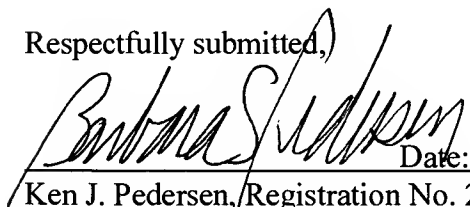
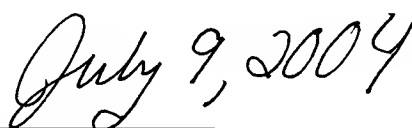
New Claims:

Applicants have added new Claim 39, which claims the embodiments of Claim 1 wherein said keyswitches comprise said cap, a hinge below said cap, and said stem comprising a biasing member below said cap. Applicants have added new Claim 40, which claims the embodiments of Claim 39 wherein said biasing member is transparent or semi-transparent. Support for these claims is at page 15, line 28 through page 16, line 5; page 18, line 19 through 22; and Figures 11A, 11B, and 11C, for example, so no new matter has been added.

Applicant have added new Claims 41 - 80, which claims are worded the same as Claims 1 - 40, respectively, except that the keyswitches are not claimed as having a "stem" and the words "stem" and "stems" are not found in Claims 41 - 80. Rather, the claimed keyswitches comprise "a cap and an actuator below the cap", which language is submitted not to differentiate from cited art, but rather to describe the keyswitch element differently. Support for this is in the original specification, for example, at page 5, lines 15 through 17; page 11, lines 22 - 25; page 14, lines 25 through 29; page 16 lines 1 -8; and Figures 3, 4, 5, 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 11A, 11B, and 11C, so no new matter has been added. Applicants argue that Claims 41 - 80, especially in view of the enclosed Declaration under Rule 1.131 swearing behind Katrinecz, are also allowable.

Applicants now believe that Claims 1 - 80 and the application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

 
Date: _____

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